

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /071 W

----- 117411

R 171955Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2459

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3763

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED TWENTY PERCENT

1. RESPONDING TO INFLATIONARY PRESSURES, THE GON ON SEPTEMBER 14 ANNOUNCED THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE WILL BE INCREASED TWENTY PERCENT. THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE COMMISSION TOOK THE ACTION AFTER GENERAL ANASTASION SOMOZA, ACTING AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COUNCIL, REQUESTED AN INCREASE IN A LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 12. HE ANNOUNCED THE NEC WOULD TAKE THIS ACTION AT HIS AUGUST 29 PRESS CONFERENCE (MANAGUA 3604). THE NEW RATE WILL TAKE EFFECT AS SOON AS IT IS OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED WHICH IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

2. THE MAJOR IMPACT OF THE INCREASE WILL BE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WHERE THE VAST MAJORITY OF FARM LABORERS RECEIVE THE MIMUMINUM WAGE WHICH NOW WILL BE UPPED FROM C\$9.20 TO C\$11.04 PER EIGHT HOUR WORK DAY. LABOR MINISTER NAVARRO RICHARDSON SAID HE WILL BE MEETING WITH THE COTTON AND COFFEE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATIONS AS SOON AS THE NEW RATE IS PROMULGATED TO ENCOURAGE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

3. MOST INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS IN MANAGUA ALREADY RECEIVE PAY ABOVE THE MINIMUM WAGE AND WILL BE UNAFEECTED BY THE NEW RATE. UNSKILLED LABORERS (PEONES) AND SOME SERVICES EMPLOYEES (WAITERS, FOR INSTANCE) AND DOMESTICS, HOWEVER, WILL BENEFIT. THIS SHOULD IN PARTICULAR, HELP TO UNCLASSIFIED

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EASE DISCONTENT AMONG ROAD WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE

NATIONAL DISTRICT, SOME OF WHOM ANNOUNCED SPORATIC STRIKES
LAST WEEK IN PROTEST AGAINST THE RECENT BUS FARE INCREASE
(MANAGUA 3749).

SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGE RATES, MINIMUM WAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANAGU03763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730930/aaaaawad.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED TWENTY PERCENT
TAGS: ELAB, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005